



A
LETTER

FROM THE

Lord Bishop of *Peterborough*, to the
Clergy of his Diocese.

REVEREND BROTHER,



THE following Letters will so fully
lay before you the Nature and Ex-
cellency of this Design, and the
present Necessity of thus applying
to the Publick for the Support of it,
that it will be quite needless to be
particular upon these Heads.

To

*To the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of
Peterborough.*

MY LORD,



THE Corporation erected by our late gracious
Sovereign King WILLIAM the Third,
for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign
Parts, having, by their great Zeal in car-
rying on that good Work, so far exhausted their
Stock, as to be obliged to have Recourse to His Ma-
jesty for Assistance ; I do, with great Pleasure, com-
municate to your Lordship the gracious Letter, which
He hath been pleased to send me in Answer to their
Request.

You will therein see, how highly His Majesty ap-
proves this Undertaking ; and how ready He is to give
His Royal Countenance and Encouragement to it :
What Liberty He hath granted for a Publick Collec-
tion ; and what Commands He hath laid upon us,
that Publication of His said Letter be made within
our respective Dioceses ; and that the Ministers in each
Parish be required effectually to excite their Parishioners
to a liberal Contribution. All which I thought myself
obliged to signify to your Lordship by this first Oppor-
tunity, not doubting, but that, to the utmost of your
Power, you will recommend, and promote, this pious,
and excellent Design.

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to take Care, that Publication be made hereof on such *Sunday*, and in such Places within their respective Dioceses, as the said Bishops shall appoint: And that upon this Occasion, the Ministers in each Parish do effectually excite their Parishioners to a liberal Contribution, whose Benevolence towards carrying on the said charitable Work, shall be collected the Week following, at their respective Dwellings by the Church-Wardens, or Overseers of the Poor in each Parish; and the Ministers of the several Parishes are to cause the Sums so collected to be paid immediately to the Treasurer or Treasurers for the Time being of the said Society; to be accounted for by him or them to the Society, and applied to the carrying on, and promoting the above-mentioned good Designs. And so we bid you very heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at Kensington the Thirtieth Day of August 1751, in the Twenty-fifth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

I HAVE only to request of you, which I now do in the most earnest Manner, that you will recommend this Useful and Excellent Design to your People, with a becoming and just Sense of its Importance; and then I cannot doubt, but that their Contributions will answer our warmest Expectations.

WHETHER

WHETHER we are preserving Christians from sinking into Heathenism, or converting Heathens to Christianity, we are greatly promoting the Honour of our Blessed Master : We are either enlarging, or preventing a Defection from, His Kingdom : And in thus promoting His Honour, we, at the same Time, shew the greatest Good-Will to Men, and serve them in their truest, and most lasting Interest.

I MUST therefore desire you, and every other Incumbent in my Diocese, to read these Letters, together with my own in Pursuance of them, in your Churches, on *Sunday* the 28th Day of *June* next, or, in case of any Impediment, as soon after as conveniently may be.

I HAVE nothing more to add, but my hearty Prayers for good Success in this, and all your Labours for the Honour of God, and the Salvation of Mankind.

I remain,

Your affectionate Brother,

March 4,
1752.

JOHN PETERBOROUGH.

N. B. *The Treasurer of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, is Slingsby Bethell, Esq; on Tower-hill,*

The Secretary is the Reverend Dr. Bearcroft, at the Charter-house, London.

